

Message Text

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ORIGIN ORM-02

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INSE-00 AID-05 HEW-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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P 222328Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT:INDOCHINESE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN FRG

REF: BONN 416

1. WHILE THE DIRECT RESETTLEMENT OF OVER 130,000 REFUGEES THROUGH THE U.S. SYSTEM HAS JUST BEEN COMPLETED, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 80,000 REFUGEES FROM CAMBODIA, VIETNAM AND LAOS IN THAILAND WHO ARE ALSO A MATTER OF GREAT CONCERN.

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2. THE 80,000 CAN BE DIVIDED AS FOLLOWS:

.....48,000 LAO -- A SUBSTANTIAL MAJORITY ARE MEO TRIBESMEN
.....20,000 CAMBODIANS
..... 1,000 INDOCHINESE
..... 2,000 THAI DAM -- OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO THE FRENCH
.....10,000 OF ALL ABOVE CATEGORIES LIVING OUT OF CAMPS

3. MOST WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE TO BE RESETTLED IN THAILAND
BY THE UNHCR WHO WE HOPE WILL SOON LAUNCH A NEW APPEAL FOR
FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR
INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN THAILAND.

4. MANY OTHERS OF THESE REFUGEES, HOWEVER, WOULD BE
SUBJECT TO PERSECUTION UPON RETURN TO THEIR HOMELANDS.
OF SPECIAL INTEREST ARE THE HIGH RISK CATEGORY -- THOSE
REFUGEES WHOSE ASSOCIATION WITH FORMER GOVERNMENTS OF
VIETNAM , LAOS OR CAMBODIA MAKES THEM PARTICULARLY
VULNERABLE TO PERSECUTION IF THEY HAD TO RETURN TO THEIR
COUNTRIES OF NATIONALITY. THESE SAME TRAITS MAKE THESE
REFUGEES AN EMBARRASMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND
AND THUS MORE SUBJECT TO PRESSURES BY RTG TO RETURN TO
THEIR HOMELAND. THERE ARE ALSO SOME REFUGEES WHO HAVE
CONNECTIONS WITH GERMANY AND SKILLS WHICH WOULD MAKE
THEM PARTICULARLY USEFUL TO THE FRG.

5. WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE FRG IS NOW MOVING FORWARD
WITH THEIR PLANS TO TAKE 1,000 REFUGEES. DURING OUR
JAN. 16 MEETING WITH FRG CONSUL GENERAL IN WASHINGTON,
VON SCHMELING, HOWEVER; HE POINTED OUT THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS
AUTHORIZED ACTION FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ONLY.
GIVEN THE RELATIVELY MUCH SMALLER NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE
CASES, WE EXPRESSED OUR HOPE THAT FRG WOULD ALSO AUTHORIZE
THE LAO AND CAMBODIANS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE GERMAN RESETTLEMENT
SCHEME. VON SCHMELING AGREED TO REPORT THIS
POINT TO BONN.

6. WE ALSO INDICATED THAT WE ARE PRESENTLY SEEKING
AUTHORITY FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO ADMIT ADDITIONAL
REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA. IN OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH
CONGRESS WE ANTICIPATE THAT CONGRESS WILL AGAIN BEAR DOWN
ON THE ROLE OF OTHER NATIONS IN THE RESETTLEMENT OF INDO-
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CHINESE REFUGEES. APART FROM THE HUMAN NEEDS OF THE
REFUGEES WHICH NEED REDRESSING,IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY
HELPFUL TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR EFFORTS IF IT CAN BE
SHOWN THAT THIRD COUNTRIES, INCLUDING FRG ARE BEARING
THEIR SHARE OF THE PROBLEM WHICH CAN NOW BE PROPERLY
VIEWED AS AN INTERNATIONAL ONE. WE TOOK ALL WHO CAME TO
US IN THE INITIAL EVACUATION, HAVE TAKEN MANY MORE
SINCE AND ARE SEEKING AUTHORITY TO TAKE STILL FURTHER

SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF SELECTED "HIGH-RISK" REFUGEES IN THAILAND. NEVERTHELESS, THE REFUGEE POPULATION WHICH IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN THAILAND AFTER POSSIBILITIES OF EMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES ARE EXHAUSTED, CLEARLY WILL CONTINUE TO BE TOO LARGE FOR ABSORPTION BY THAILAND ALONE. THUS, WE BELIEVE A CLEAR RESPONSIBILITY LIES WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ASSIST THAILAND TO MEET SUCH MAJOR DEMANDS.

7. YOU CAN ASSURE FONOFF THAT USEMBASSY BANGKOK AND

DEPT. ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST FRG IN WHATEVER WAY WE CAN IN THIS EFFORT.

8. SPECIFICALLY DEPT. IS ABLE TO ASSIST ON THE SECURITY CLEARANCE IN THE FOLLOWING WAY:

A. FRG EMBASSY BANGKOK SHOULD PROVIDE FULL NAME, DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH TO USEMBASSY BANGKOK OF REFUGEES WHICH FRG CONSIDERING FOR THEIR PROGRAM.

B. EMBASSY BANGKOK WILL SEND NAMES IN ROUTINE VISA FALCON MANNER TO VISA OFFICE INDICATING IT IS FOR GERMAN RESETTLEMENT SCHEME WITH INFO TO EMBASSY BONN.

C. WHEN FINAL VISA FALCON APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL IS GIVEN, DEPARTMENT WILL NOTIFY EMBASSY BONN AND EMBASSY BANGKOK WHICH WILL INFORM FRG EMBASSY BANGKOK.

9. REQUEST EMBASSY APPROACH FRG AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL TO PROVIDE ASSURANCES IN PARA 7 AND 8 ABOVE AND, DRAWING ON AFOREGOING TO URGE: (A) REMAINING APPROXIMATELY 700 SPACES FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ALSO BE MADE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AVAILABLE TO LAO AND CAMBODIAN REFUGEES, AND (B) CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN BY FRG TO ACCEPTING ADDITIONAL REFUGEES FROM AMONG LAO AND CAMBODIAN REFUGEE POPULATIONS IN THAILAND. ROBINSON

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